

Tokens



If it is customary for a bag or plate to be passed around to receive money during the service, then you may take a token at the start of the service to place in the bag or on the plate. You thus have the opportunity to express an act of giving, even though the process is taking place 'behind the scenes' automatically.

What Happens Next?

1. **Read the notes carefully as you complete the GIFT FORM.**
Please note that gifts can only be made on the 1st of a month.

2. **Send the Gift Form direct to:**

PGS, Church House, College Green,
Gloucester, GL1 2LY

Keep the left hand side of the form as it explains what will happen next;

3. **Cancel any existing Standing Order** you may have prior to your first gift being made through PGS;
4. **Contact the Parish Giving Scheme Office** if you want subsequently to change the amount of your gift or update your personal details:

PGS Office, Church House, College Green, Gloucester, GL1 2LY
Email: info@parishgivingscheme.org.uk
Tel: 01452 835595

Questions?

If you have further questions, contact:



Giving to Your Church through the Parish Giving Scheme

If you are considering joining the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) as a donor, this booklet supplements the information provided in the **GIFT FORM**.

Why Should I Consider Joining the PGS?

Whether you thinking about becoming part of the planned giving scheme in your church or indeed are already part of it, please consider giving through the PGS.

Everyone can benefit:

The Church benefits from:

- Predictable, stable income
- Efficient reclaim of Gift Aid
- Better cash flow
- Protection against inflation by donors choosing to increase their giving annually in line with inflation
- Reduced administration & paper work
- Reduced number of volunteer hours needed

The donor benefits from:

- Total control over how much you give
- A simple giving method which provides regular financial support to your church
- Option to inflation proof your giving
- Protection provided by the Direct Debit Guarantee
- Ability to remain anonymous if you wish

Even if you do not pay any Income or Capital Gains Tax, you can still use PGS as your chosen giving method and you will help your local Church as outlined above.

How Much Should I Give?

Giving by individuals is essential to secure your local church's ability to serve its community and for the Church of England to minister across the country. How much you give is a matter for your personal and prayerful reflection.

The service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. (2 Corinthians 9:12)

Our giving should reflect not only our willingness to give, but also our ability to give; since individual circumstances differ significantly, so will our individual gifts. A starting point when reflecting on our Christian giving is that when giving to others we should give in **proportion to what we ourselves receive from God** i.e. in proportion to our income. This practice of tithing has Biblical origins and the "tithe" literally means a tenth.

For some time, the Church of England General Synod has encouraged us as Christians to review our giving annually and to give a proportion of our income

You can choose to calculate your proportionate giving on pre-tax, post-tax or disposable income; please do whatever feels right for you.

On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up so that when I come, no collections will have to be made. (1 Corinthians 16:2)

Unique Features of PGS

Anonymity Option

While the PGS staff will know your identity (necessary for the Gift Aid claim), using the option on the donor form means you can ask them not to pass your name on to your local church, if this is important to you. **Current levels of confidentiality in your parish will be maintained even if you don't tick this box.**

Inflation Option

Your church relies on the generosity of donors who historically have given either by standing order or money in the collection. Such donations tend to be of a fixed amount and trends suggest that such gifts are unlikely to increase each year. You might say that this is not significant. Collectively, the impact on your local church is significant, especially when the costs your church has to meet rise annually with inflation.

Year	2000	2005	2010	2014
Gift	£40.00	£45.35	£52.32	£60.65

The table shows a £40 gift increasing in line with inflation. The intervening years are not shown, so the increase would be very gradual.

So far, nearly two-thirds of donors across the participating dioceses have opted to increase their gift annually in line with inflation.

The PGS makes it easy for you to agree, in principle, to this annual increase. **Just tick the box on the form.** The gift form explains that you are given plenty of time to reflect on the revised amount each year and make changes to the amount if you wish. **Therefore, donor control is retained.**